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1955-

# African Violets

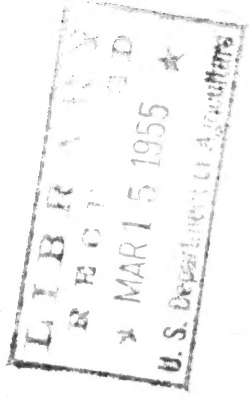
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Expert Shipping

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# *Spring* 1955

*Dear Customers and Friends:*

*We had almost decided to quit the shipping business because of increased costs and labor shortage.*

*In discussing it with some old customers, they were unanimous in asking us to keep it up; they said they would be lost without our superior plants. So we listened and decided we would continue. However, to save costs we cut out national advertising, etc. From now on, we just send out price lists to old customers and those that ask for it.*

*Shipping will start as soon as weather permits . Be assured that we will send only the best. **ALL PLANTS ARE GUARANTEED TO ARRIVE IN GOOD CONDITION. PLEASE WRITE US IMMEDIATELY IF SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH YOUR ORDER, SO THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS.***

*We deeply appreciate the many, many wonderful comments regarding sturdiness and excellent quality of our plants & the careful packing. Thanking you for that extra special consideration in giving us such unsolicited information, we remain*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Rose Behnke*

**BEHNKE NURSERIES**

**We shall start shipping in April, weather permitting. North, Middle West and West after April 15th, depending on weather conditions.**

# SAINTPAULIAS

**Guaranteed true to name—Sturdy, well-developed plants—In bud or bloom if possible—Out of 2¼ inch pots—Shipped in paper pots to reduce breakage of leaves**

PLEASE ADD 50c FOR SHIPPING PER ORDER

Check or money order please. No C.O.D.'s

## LATEST NOVELTIES. . .EXCLUSIVE

### Dazzling Beauties All

#### First Long Awaited Double Pinks

Each

**DOUBLE PINK BOUNTIFUL.** Dazzling Novelty. One of the long awaited double Pinks. Ready May 1st. **\$2.50**

**DOUBLE PINK VICTORY.** Another good double Pink Ready after May 1st. **\$2.50**



**BLUE PEAK.** Newest. Double Geneva type, very full & exceptionally fine white edge. **\$3.75**

**BRENITA GIRL.** Huge rosy red flowers on lovely girl foliage **\$2.75**

**CRUSADER.** Beautiful double red novelty **\$3.75**

**DOUBLE INSPIRATION.** Giant lavender, free flowering **\$2.25**

**GIANT MONARCH.** Deep purple, when flowers are fully developed they get as large as 2½ inches across **\$2.95**

**LACY LAVENDER.** A true lavender double with a full lacy flower **\$3.75**

**LAVENDA.** An entirely new shade in violet double. Exceptional **\$2.95**

**RED GENEVA.** The finest red with a white edge **\$2.75**

**RED WING.** We like this new one. Very large rose red flowers. Exceptional **\$2.95**

**RUBY GIRL.** A superior Red **\$2.25**

**SPRINGFIELD BEAUTY.** Mammoth double blue **\$2.95**

**SPRING BOUQUET.** Rich rose pink double blooms on dark bronzy foliage **\$2.95**

**WHITE PRIDE.** Gorgeous double white **\$2.95**

## NOVELTIES & STANDARD KINDS

- ALL AGLOW.** The deepest Pink of them all. With red-rimmed eye ..... \$1.25
- AUGUSTA.** The giant of the Pinks. Our own introduction—a sensation at the greenhouse ..... \$2.50
- AZURE BEAUTY.** Showy billowy double white with blue patterns ..... \$1.25
- BAVARIA.** A rich sky blue, the blossoms fairly sparkle with a distinct sugary white edge. Shiny quilted leaves are heart-shaped of luscious emerald green. .... \$1.50
- BLUE DANUBE.** White with blue markings ..... \$2.00
- BLUE DELIGHT.** Lovely powder blue double ..... \$1.00
- BLUE RIDGE.** Blossoms resemble blue waves and ripples with darker shadows. Quilted glistening leaves. A wonderful bloomer. Tops in blooming. .... \$1.50
- CORNFLOWER BLUE.** Our own introduction. A darling new blue on real dark unusually elegant foliage ..... \$2.00
- DOUBLE ORCHID SUNSET.** Very good ..... \$1.50
- DOUBLE ORCHID NEPTUNE.** Very good ..... \$2.00
- DOUBLE SAILOR'S DELIGHT.** Fine medium blue double ..... \$1.50
- DUPONT LAVENDER PINK.** A favorite ..... \$1.25
- FANTASY.** Our Fantasy is still among the favorites. Lavender pink background splashed, rayed and dotted with contrasting deep purple. Vivid re-select strain ..... \$1.00
- FINLANDIA.** Midnight purple, fringed blossoms on very glossy dark bronzy foliage. Ruffled leaves have bright red undersides. Outstanding! ..... \$1.50
- FLORADORA.** Exquisite lively rosy orchid with purple overcasts. Large round fringed and ruffled blooms. Dark green ruffled foliage sporting deep rosy under coats. Most prolific in growth and blooming habits. Try this one! ..... \$1.50
- GENEVA BEAUTY.** A real beauty with deep purple blossoms strikingly edged white. Excellent ..... \$1.50
- HOLLY.** The foliage is just like a beautiful holly leaf. Pale blue blooms ..... \$2.00
- LACY GIRL.** Large frilled deep purple ..... \$2.95
- LILAC TIME.** Lovely lavender ruffled blooms shaded orchid. As gay as springtime. Bright red flower stems and quilted foliage. Our own! ..... \$2.00
- LOVE BIRDS.** It may be an "oldie" but we love it. It's always in bloom ..... \$1.25

- MENTOR BOY IMPROVED.** Velvety purple. Good bloomer ..... \$1.00
- MOONDRIFT.** One of our latest. Velvety dark glossy foliage with deep red undersides. Round purplish blue blooms ..... \$1.50
- OAKLEAF.** Light blue blossoms ..... \$2.00
- PAINTED GIRL.** The star in any collection. Glistening snowy white blossoms, edged in orchid. Some blushing all over, yet returning to their original color scheme of a white with an orchid band..... \$1.50
- Our own brilliant
- PINK FANTASY.** Large glowing pure pink blossoms. You will love this free-blooming hardy plant. For blooming it cannot be beat ..... \$1.50
- PINK SHOCKING.** A pink novelty with an exceptional glow ..... \$1.50
- PINK WONDER.** Is excellent with huge shell pink blooms Patented novelty ..... \$2.50
- RED GIRL.** Has bronze foliage ..... \$1.00
- RED LADY.** Nice large non-fading red with quilted and notched foliage ..... \$1.50
- RED PRINCESS.** Very good red ..... \$1.25
- RUFFLED QUEEN.** Unique ruffled blooms—reddish violet. Just like a miniature orchid ..... \$2.50
- SAILOR GIRL.** No matter how many new thrillers, we safely predict Sailor Girl will always remain a favorite. Light or medium blue blossoms..... \$1.00
- SEA GIRL.** Excellent double blue ..... \$1.50
- SNOW GIRL.** Pure white. Enchanting ..... \$1.00
- SNOW PRINCE.** Large white blossoms on sturdy dark green foliage. The best white ..... \$1.25
- STAR GIRL.** Lovely white with blue edge..... \$1.50
- SUNRISE.** Flat big reddish-orchid blossoms. Tops in blooming ..... \$2.50
- VELVET GIRL.** The most enchanting pansy-like blossoms. so large and velvety orchid, dipped burgundy red ..... \$2.00
- WESTCOAST AMETHYST.** Lavender. Wonderful bloomer. Dark green crested leaf..... \$1.00
- WHITE MADONNA.** Superb double white Novelty. A prize winner. The best double white..... \$2.95

**WINTERGREEN.** Heavily variegated emerald green and yellow foliage. Lovely mutating blue and white double blossoms. New ..... **\$1.50**

**WINTRY NIGHT.** Variegated wonderful foliage dark blue blossoms. .... **\$2.95**

Cousins to the Violet:

**EPISCIA Coccinea** is a real brick red and very showy. Needs 72° Fahrenheit and above for blooming. Don't let them fool you. If it blooms once a year, you are lucky. But is beautiful enough just as a foliage plant. .... **\$1.50**

**EPISCIA SILVERSHEEN.** Silvery foliage. Bright red blossoms. .... **\$2.50**

## SUPPLIES

**GRO-STUFF.** Ideal for African Violets. For Leaf and Root Feeding. A soluble plant food to speed growth and increase the size of the flowers.

5 oz. can 49c with order, .....singly **85c**

1 lb. can \$1.25 with order, .....singly **\$1.60**

**ORTHO-GRO.** Excellent liquid organic plant food, easy to apply, is a complete, balanced fertilizer for everything that grows.

4 oz. 35c with order, .....singly **75c**

1 pt. 90c with order, .....singly **\$1.35**

**ANTROL AFRICAN VIOLET SPRAY.** Latest improved easy to use AEROSOL SPRAY. Controls mealy bugs, mites, aphids, exposed thrips, white flies, etc.

89c with order, .....singly **\$1.15**

**OPTOX.** A dependable insecticide. Safe, yet effective when it comes to control of such insects as Aphids, Thrips, Mealy Bug, Red Spiders, White Fly, Spring Tails, etc. Use as a spray, dilute according to directions.

1 oz. bottle (with Violet order) ..... **50c**

if ordered singly ..... **85c**

**KAPSULATE.** Sodium Selenate (spells death to Mite) in Capsules. Just place in soil—will dissolve through watering. Controls MITE and other insects on Violets and various plants. Careful, poisonous.

12 capsules per packet. 50c with violet order, otherwise ..... **75c**

**ALUMINUM WINDOW TRAYS.** Exceptionally handy, sturdy light weight—green. Fits any window sill. To provide the necessary humidity, fill with pebbles, or vermiculite, or sand. Keep constant water level. Rest all pots in saucers. Holds from 4 to 6 Violets. **\$2.20**



**We do not sell leaves, rooted cuttings, or seeds.**

**Please Note**  
**ONE VIOLET FREE**  
**WITH ANY FOUR VIOLETS**  
**ORDERED.**

**Value of free plant is \$1**  
**CHOOSE YOUR OWN**



**IMPORTANT—SHIPPING**  
**SERVICE**

**Please add 50c for Shipping per order.**

**ALL PARCELS GO SPECIAL HANDLING**

Maryland residents please add 2% sales tax.  
Plus 50c for Shipping per order

**Do's**

Furnish drainage.  
Watch for insects and diseases.  
Feed once a month.  
Wash off leaves weekly with  
luke-warm water.  
Furnish humidity.  
Water your plants when they  
need it.  
Experiment until successful.  
Take off damaged leaves.  
Take off old flowers and stalks.  
Provide ventilation.  
Give them enough light.  
Try different exposures if no  
blooms.  
Use sterilized soil, high in or-  
ganic matter.  
Spray regularly with a good in-  
secticide for violets.

**TRY NEW VARIETIES.**

**Don'ts**

Don't overwater.  
Don't overpot. (Violets like a  
comparatively small pot.)  
Don't use cold water.  
Don't expose to direct sun-  
light too long.  
Don't subject to sudden drastic  
temperature changes.  
Don't expose to temperatures  
of less than 60 degrees.  
Don't expose to drafts.  
Don't use heavy soil.

**DON'T GIVE UP!**

**A TIP!**

**Grow them under fluorescent lights. You will be  
amazed at the results. Better plants, many, many  
more blooms. Old standard: two 40-watt tubes—  
12 inches above pot rims. 12 to 18 hours per day.  
TRY IT!**



While visiting our beautiful Washington, be sure to stop in at our place. We are located directly on the Washington-Baltimore Boulevard at Beltsville, just  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of the University of Maryland. You can't miss it. We would be delighted to have you browse around and we are sure you will find it well worth your while. All the varieties listed here are usually available including some not listed. Since we sell only larger, 3" plants at the greenhouse, we have a different price set-up there.

# *Behnke* **NURSERIES**

**Washington-Baltimore Boulevard  
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND**

*Just  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Univ. of Md., directly on  
U. S. Route No. 1, or 5 miles south of Laurel*

**Open Weekdays, Saturdays and Sundays Till 5 P.M.,  
except holidays**

***The Finest and Latest in Saintpaulias—  
Accent on Quality***